

National Climatic Data Center

DATA DOCUMENTATION

FOR

DATA SET 3910 (DSI-3910)

Storm Data

March 24, 2003

National Climatic Data Center
151 Patton Ave.
Asheville, NC 28801-5001 USA

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1. **Abstract:** The Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena data set contains a chronological listing, by state, of hurricanes, tornadoes, thunderstorms, hail, floods, drought conditions, lightning, high winds, snow, temperature extremes and other weather phenomena. The reports are provided by the National Weather Service and contain statistics on personal injuries and damage estimates. STORM DATA is a publication of the National Climatic Data Center. This Data has been compiled from the Storm Data Database in Paradox format. This Database is maintained by National Weather Service's Office of Meteorology. See the following site for additional information:

<http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/climate/sd/#ABOUT>

2. **Element Names and Definitions:**

State FIPS Number: State FIPS code number which uniquely identifies a particular state. (Except Guam/Pacific - 66, Puerto Rico - 72 and Virgin Islands - 78) See Appendix A.

Year: In 4 digit format. Example 1998

Month: A 2-digit number assigned to the month.

Day: A 2-digit number assigned to the day of the month.

Time: In 24 hour format. (Ex: 2359 = 11:59 PM) If blank, no records were received or no significant weather events occurred for the area listed.

Time Zone: A 3-character alpha string that identifies the time zone used for the particular severe weather event. Example: AST, EST, CST, MST, PST, etc. If blank, no records received or no significant weather events occurred for the area listed.

County FIPS Number or 1st listed Zone Number: A 3 character digit is assigned by the US Government that uniquely identifies a particular county within a state. If the weather event is large scale, the first zone number will be listed here.

Record #: A 1-digit number used for distinguishing multiple events that occurred at the same date and time in the same county and state.

Field Type: A 2-digit number that describes the data fields listed in column number 27 through 64. (See below)

Segment Number: A 3-digit number that identifies the segment of a multiple line record. For use in listing multiple county/zone numbers, multiple county/zone names and for the event narrative field.

#	Field Name	Description	char	dec.
01	County Names	Or Multiple Zone Numbers (Example : NCZ011>015)	< 200	0
02	State	Alpha character, 2-letter postal code (Example: AL)	2	0
:				
:				
		3:		

03	Event Type	Avalanche Blizzard Drought Dry Microburst Dust Storm Excessive Heat Extreme Windchill Flood/Flash Flood Fog Funnel Cloud Hail Heavy Rain Heavy Snow High Wind Hurricane Ice Storm Lightning Rip Currents Seiche Storm Surge Tornado Tropical Storm TSTM Wind Waterspout Wild/Forest Fire Winter Storm Other (The person entering the Event Type into the Paradox Database has the opportunity to enter any free text describing an event. An example of this is a <i>Storm Summary</i> or <i>Winter Weather</i>)	<30	0
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04	Begin Range	(Ex: 22.25)	5	2
05	Begin Azimuth	(Ex: SSW)	3	0
06	Begin Location	(Example: Name of City or Town)	< 200	0
07	End Date	Year, Month, Day (Ex: 19971231)	8	0
08	End Time	(Example: 07:59:00 PM)	11	0
09	County End Number	In County FIPS Number Format	3	0
10	County End Name	(Example: Buncombe)	< 200	0
11	End Range	Same as above	5	2
12	End Azimuth	Same as above	3	0
13	End Location	Same as above	< 200	0
14	Length	(path) of tornado, in miles & tenths (example: 18.00)	6	2
15	Width	(path) of tornado in yards (Ex: 2640)	5	0
16	F Scale	Fujita tornado intensity scale (Ex: F0 40-72 mph F1 73-112 mph F2 113-157 mph F3 158-206 mph F4 207-260 mph F5 261-318 mph)	1	0
17	Magnitude	Hail in inches implied hundredths Wind gust in knots	5	0
18	Fatalities	Number directly killed	5	0
19	Injuries	Number directly injured	5	0

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20	Property Damage	Whole numbers and hundredths	6	2
21	Multiplier	Hundred(H), Thousand(K), Million(M), Billion(B)	1	0
22	Crop Damage	Whole numbers and hundredths	6	2
23	Multiplier	Hundred(H), Thousand(K), Million(M), Billion(B)	1	0
24	WFO	Weather Forecast Office , NWS Identifier	3	0
25	State Region	Regional location of weather event (Ex: North Carolina, Southwest)	3	0
26	Zone/County Names	(Ex. Buncombe, Henderson etc.)	< 200	0
27	Begin Latitude	of severe weather event in degrees/seconds N. Latitude, implied minutes (Ex. 2914 = 29° 14')	5	0
28	Begin Longitude	of severe weather event in degrees/seconds W. Longitude, implied minutes, (-) used for E. Lon	6	0
29	End Latitude	Same as above	5	0
30	End Longitude	Same as above	6	0
31	Remarks	(Narrative portion of Storm Data)	< 21,000	char

3. **Start Date:** 19590101

4. **Stop Date:** Ongoing.

5. **Coverage:** North America

- a. Southernmost Latitude: 15° N. Latitude
- b. Northernmost Latitude: 70° N. Latitude
- c. Westernmost Longitude: 144° E. Longitude
- d. Easternmost Longitude: 60° W. Longitude

6. **How to Order Data:**

Ask NCDC's Climate Services about the cost of obtaining this data set.
Phone: 828-271-4800
FAX: 828-271-4876
E-mail: NCDC.Orders@noaa.gov

7. **Archiving Data Center:**

National Climatic Data Center
Federal Building
151 Patton Avenue
Asheville, NC 28801-5001
Phone: (828) 271-4800.

8. **Technical Contact:**

National Climatic Data Center
Federal Building
151 Patton Avenue
Asheville, NC 28801-5001
Phone: (828) 271-4800.

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9. **Known Uncorrected Problems:** None.
10. **Quality Statement:** This data set has NOT been thoroughly edited for errors. It is published as received from the National Weather Service's Weather Forecast Offices.
11. **Essential Companion Datasets:** None.
12. **References:** No information provided with original documentation.

Appendix A

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FIPS STATE CODES

FIPS CODE	STATE NAME	ABBR	FIPS CODE	STATE NAME	ABBR
01	Alabama	AL	25	Massachusetts	MA
02	Alaska	AK	26	Michigan	MI
03	NOT USED	N/A	27	Minnesota	MN
04	Arizona	AZ	28	Mississippi	MS
05	Arkansas	AR	29	Missouri	MO
06	California	CA	30	Montana	MT
07	NOT USED	N/A	31	Nebraska	NE
08	Colorado	CO	32	Nevada	NV
09	Connecticut	CT	33	New Hampshire	NH
10	Delaware	DE	34	New Jersey	NJ
11	District of Columbia	DC	35	New Mexico	NM
12	Florida	FL	36	New York	NY
13	Georgia	GA	37	North Carolina	NC
14	NOT USED	N/A	38	North Dakota	ND
15	Hawaii	HI	39	Ohio	OH
16	Idaho	ID	40	Oklahoma	OK
17	Illinois	IL	41	Oregon	OR
18	Indiana	IN	42	Pennsylvania	PA
19	Iowa	IA	43	NOT USED	N/A
20	Kansas	KS	44	Rhode Island	RH
21	Kentucky	KY	45	South Carolina	SC
22	Louisiana	LA	46	South Dakota	SD
23	Maine	ME	47	Tennessee	TN
24	Maryland	MD	48	Texas	TX

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FIPS STATE CODES

FIPS CODE	STATE NAME	ABBR	FIPS CODE	STATE NAME	ABBR
49	Utah	UT	60	American Samoa	AS
50	Vermont	VT	64	Fed States of Micronesia	FM
51	Virginia	VA	66	Guam	GU
52	NOT USED	N/A	68	Marshall Islands	MH
53	Washington	WA	69	Northern Mariana Islands	MP
54	West Virginia	WV	70	Palau	PW
55	Wisconsin	WI	72	Puerto Rico	PR
56	Wyoming	WY	78	Virgin Islands of the US	VI

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United States Coastal Waters and Great Lakes: (added by Stuart Hinson, NCDC for Storm Data purposes only)

81	LC	LAKE ST CLAIR
82	PS	AMERICAN SAMOA WATERS
83	PM	PACIFIC ISLAND WATERS
84	PH	HAWAII WATERS
85	GM	GULF OF MEXICO
86	PZ	PACIFIC OCEAN
87	AM	CARIBBEAN SEA AND TROPICAL ATLANTIC
88	AN	ATLANTIC OCEAN
89	PK	ALASKA WATERS
90	LH	LAKE HURON
91	LM	LAKE MICHIGAN
92	LS	LAKE SUPERIOR
93	SL	ST LAWRENCE RIVER
94	LO	LAKE ONTARIO
95	LE	LAKE ERIE

FIPS State Codes for the Outlying Areas of the United States, the Freely Associated States, and Trust Territory

American Samoa	60	AS 1
Federated States of Micronesia	64	FM 3
Guam	66	GU 1
Marshall Islands	68	MH 3
Northern Mariana Islands	69	MP 1
Palau	70	PW 4
Puerto Rico	72	PR 1
U.S. Minor Outlying Islands	74	UM 2
Virgin Islands of the U.S.	78	VI 1

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FIPS STATE CODES

FIPS CODE	STATE NAME	ABBR	FIPS CODE	STATE NAME	ABBR
49	Utah	UT	60	American Samoa	AS
50	Vermont	VT	64	Fed States of Micronesia	FM
51	Virginia	VA	66	Guam	GU
52	NOT USED	N/A	68	Marshall Islands	MH
53	Washington	WA	69	Northern Mariana Islands	MP
54	West Virginia	WV	70	Palau	PW
55	Wisconsin	WI	72	Puerto Rico	PR
56	Wyoming	WY	78	Virgin Islands Of the US	VI

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